

induction of BrahMos

739. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos has been inducted into our defence forces;

(b) whether this joint project with Russia is spearheading and would open up considerable export potential in the global market; and

(c) the time-frame within which India will achieve self-sufficiency in this cruise missile field?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. After a series of successful flight trials, the missile has proved its accurate performance against ship and land targets with devastating destruction capability. Indian Navy and Army have accepted the BrahMos system and placed orders for production of the systems. The induction process on naval ships is progressing and will start for the Army in 2007.

(b) BrahMos missile system being the best in the class has tremendous market potential in international arena. There are many countries showing considerable interest in the product. Both the Indian and Russian Government will take joint decision on the countries whom the missile will be exported.

(c) BrahMos, being a joint venture, the production is being shared by the consortium of industries from India and Russia. The Indian Armed Forces will have the superior fire power and the best cruise missile in the world, by inducting BrahMos.

Terrorist attacks on family members of defence/police personnel in J&K

740. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) how many members of the families of the personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, BSF and Army have been attacked by the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years;

(b) whether there have been a large number of complaints of the villagers from Kashmir Valley, that they are forced to shelter the terrorists and give them food at the gun point; and